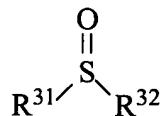


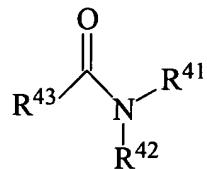
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A photothermographic material comprising, on one side of a support, a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, which is characterized by containing at least one phenol compound as the reducing agent and

at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f that is 20-4000, and which is represented by the following formula (III) or (IV):



(III)



(IV)

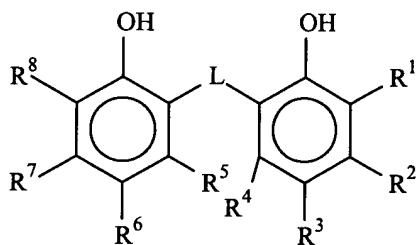
wherein:

in the formula (III), R^{31} and R^{32} independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, and R^{31} and R^{32} may be taken together to form a ring;

and in the formula(IV), R^{41} and R^{42} independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, R^{43} represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group or N-Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

$(R^{44})(R^{45})$ where R^{44} and R^{45} independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, and two or more of R^{41} , R^{42} , $[R^{43}]$, R^{44} and R^{45} may be taken together to form a ring.

2. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the phenol compound is at least one o-polyphenol compound represented by the following formula I



(I)

wherein R^2 , R^4 , R^5 , and R^7 are hydrogen atoms, R^1 and R^8 represent an alkyl group and R^3 and R^6 represent an alkyl group, and L represents a group $-CHR^9-$ where R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-propyl group, a heptyl group, a 1-ethylpentyl group, and an undecyl group.

3. (Original) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f is 70 to 4000.

4. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f is 100-4000.

5. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f is 250-2000.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ~~compound of the requirement B at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f that is 20-4000~~ is represented by the formula (III).

8. (Currently Amended) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ~~compound of the requirement B at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f that is 20-4000~~ is represented by the formula (IV).

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the phenol compound is 0.01-40 g/m².

11. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of said at least one compound is 0.01-40g/m².